GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:980
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
UNHYGIENIC FOOD UNDER MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
Singh Smt. Meena

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that poisonous insects, cockroaches, lizards etc. were found in Mid-day meal being served to school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) action taken by the Government against those responsible for serving unhygienic food to the school children; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of food being served under this scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT(SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a)to(d): Unhygienic mid-day meal being served to the children have come to the notice of the Government through various sources such as newspapers, individual complaints etc. As and when, any complaint comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. The details of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and in the current year along with details of action taken thereon are given in the Annexure. Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/AIE centres lies with the State Government/UT administration, the Central Government, through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:

ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
food items are stored in dry and safe places
adequate drinking water is made available
cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides the above, the 42 monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the MDMS in States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration is also required to send Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to the Central Government. The Central Government analyzes the reports of monitoring institution as well as QPRs and asks States/UTs to take remedial measures, if required, to avoid recurrence of such deficiency in future. States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal.